

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 OIC-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06

FEAE-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 AF-08 EA-07 EUR-12

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TAGS: IAEA, AORG, OCON

SUBJ: IAEA 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: COMPOSITION OF GENERAL COMMITTEE

REF: RIO DE JANEIRO 3578

SUMMARY: INFORMAL AGREEMENT REACHED SUSPEND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THIS GENERAL CONFERENCE TO CREATE ADDITIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THEREBY MEET AFRICAN DEMANDS FOR MORE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON GENERAL COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY

1. AS RESULT AFRICAN DEMAND FOR MORE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON GENERAL COMMITTEE (GCOM) REPORTED REFTEL, PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE IN OPENING SESSION SEPT 22, URGED THAT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS BE HELD BETWEEN INTERESTED PARTIES IN ATTEMPT RESOLVE IMPASSE, AND THEN PROCEEDED TO GENERAL DEBATE, CALLING ON US REP AS FIRST SPEAKER. ERDA ADMINISTRATOR SEAMAN'S SPEECH BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.

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2. BEFORE CONFERENCE OPENED SEPT 22, KNOWING "GROUP OF 77" WERE MEETING TO REFINE THEIR INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF AFRICAN REQUEST FOR INCREASED REPRESENTATION ON GCOM SLATE, US CALLED FOR INFORMAL MEETING OF "WESTERN" COUNTRIES TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION, CONSIDER TACTICS AND REACH COMMON POSITION. REPS OF AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FRANCE, FRG, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS AND SWEDEN ATTENDED MEETING WHICH WAS CO-CHAIRLED BY US (AMB. TAPE) AND UK.

3. AT FRENCH INSISTENCE EC NINE CAUCUSED PRIOR TO MEETING AND NETHERLANDS REP OPENED BY PRESENTING CONSENSUS OF EC NINE WHICH WAS IN ESSENCE TO HOLD TO EXISTING SLATE FOR PRESENT CONFERENCE BUT TO PREPARE RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE RECOGNIZING THAT AFRICA UNDER REPRESENTED IN VIEW OF LARGE NUMBER OF STATES FROM THAT CONTINENT AND PROPOSING PRESIDENT ESTABLISH AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION ON GCOM AND REPORT TO NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE. AGREEMENT WAS THEN REACHED TO FOLLOW THIS APPROACH. PROPOSAL WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PUT TO SOVIETS WHO AGREED WE SHOULD STAND FIRM, BUT INDICATED AS FALLBACK THEY COULD ACCEPT ADDITION OF ONE MEMBER ON GCOM.

4. CONTACT WAS MADE WITH LEADERS AT "GROUP OF 77" CONSISTING OF REPS OF BRAZIL, EGYPT, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN AND PHILIPPINES AND IT WAS AGREED ESTABLISH INFORMAL CAUCUS BETWEEN THEM AND REPS OF "WESTERN" GROUP PLUS SOVIETS TO CONVENE FOLLOWING OF GENERAL DEBATE. ATTENDING MEETING REPRESENTING "WESTERN" GROUP WERE AUSTRALIA, CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS AND US. US (TAPE) ACTED AS INFORMAL CHAIRMAN.

5. PHILIPPINE REP (SIAZON) WAS PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR DEVELOPING GROUP AND URGED THAT CONFERENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE BE AMENDED IN ORDER PERMIT ADDITION OF ONE AFRICAN REP ON GCOM. US (TAPE) POINTED OUT ISSUE HAD ONLY ARISEN PREVIOUS DAY AND IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR RULES TO BE AMENDED ON SHORT NOTICE, THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. SIAZON AND LATER PAKISTAN (SATTAR) SUGGESTED EE COULD GIVE UP ONE OF THE VP POSITIONS (ROMANIA) THEY SLATED TO HOLD BUT THIS WAS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS.

6. AFTER EXTENSIVE BACK AND FORTH SOVIET REP (EROFEEV) FINALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPOKE AND SAID SOVIETS COULD ACCEPT ADDITION OF ONE FOR AFRICA. WITH RUG PULLED OUT, TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED MEETING FOR CONSULTATIONS TO SEE IF SOME COMMON GROUND COULD BE FOUND. AT THAT POINT SOVIETS INITIALLY JOINED DEVELOPING GROUP THEN PARTICIPATED IN "WESTERN" DISCUSSION, AND WHEN MEETING RESUMED RUSHED TO GIVE ADVANCED WORD TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

7. AGREEMENT FINALLY REACHED WITH LEGAL ADVICE OF SECRETARIAT

TO SUSPEND RULES, FOR THIS SESSION ONLY BY INCREASING NUMBER OF VICE PRESIDENTS TO NINE INSTEAD OF EIGHT. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT INFORMAL GROUP WOULD BE FORMED IN VIENNA CONSISTING OF EGYPT, PHILIPPINES, PAKISTAN, US AND SOME OTHERS TO ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON FUTURE COMPOSITION OF GCOM WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING RULES.

8. DURING AFTERNOON, PRESIDENT INTERRUPTED GENERAL DEBATE TO INFORM CONFERENCE OF AGREEMENT, AND THERE BEING NO INTERVENTION DECLARED ALL COUNTRIES WHOSE NAMES HE HAD READ OUT DULY ELECTED TO CONSTITUTE GCOM FOR CURRENT SESSION OF CONFERENCE.

9. COMMENT: WHILE RESULT NOT ONE OF OUR CHOOSING, WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT WE WERE ABLE AVOID ESTABLISHING COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE LED TO FURTHER HASSLE. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT CONSULTATIONS IN VIENNA ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT GCOM CAN RESULT IN AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE WITHIN EXISTING RULES FRAMEWORK OF FIFTEEN MEMBERS FOR GCOM. WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN TOLD THAT REP OF IRAQ WILL APPROACH MATTER OF PLO OBSERVER STATUS IN VERY LOW KEY.

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